



News from

Congressman Ron Kind

REPRESENTING WISCONSIN'S THIRD
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

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Veterans History Project an Ongoing Memorial

By Congressman Ron Kind

This year marks the 30th anniversary of the end of the Vietnam War and the 60th anniversary for the end of World War II. It is also the fifth anniversary of the Veterans History Project (VHP), established by legislation I authored, along with Senator Chuck Hagel (R-NB), to collect, preserve, and share with future generations the stories of all American war veterans from World War I through the current conflict.

Since the VHP's creation, veterans and the civilians who supported them have once again answered the call to service, coming forward to record their stories and contribute personal documents for the project. To date, nearly 35,000 individuals have submitted stories to the collection.

Due to the incredible effort of our nation's veterans and the extraordinary volunteers and staff who run the VHP, the project has taken off in an exciting direction over the last five years. This year, the VHP was selected as one of the "Top 50" for the 2005 Innovations in American Government Award competition. Often referred to as the "Oscar" of government prizes, this prestigious award recognizes 50 of the most creative, forward-thinking, results-driven government programs.

The Veterans History Project is a salute and an ongoing memorial to the brave men and women who have sacrificed to protect the ideals of this nation and those who continue that proud tradition of service today. On this Memorial Day, I urge people to participate in this nationwide, volunteer effort to collect and preserve veterans' stories.

Those interested in becoming involved in the VHP are encouraged to send an e-mail to vohp@loc.gov or call the toll-free message line at (888) 371-5848 to request a project kit. The kit is also available on the VHP Web site at www.loc.gov/vets.

Congressman Ron Kind is a Democrat representing Wisconsin's Third Congressional District and the author of the legislation creating the Veterans History Project.